

SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

October 2004

Hello parents and students! Can you believe we are in our second month of the 2004-2005 school year, and almost World Series time? (For all you baseball fans out there, as of this writing, my beloved RED SOX are 4 and 1/2 games out of first place!)

It seems parents are always asking what they can do to help out our schools--well I am glad you asked! Stafford County Schools partnered with a national program called, 'Adopt-A-Classroom' to support our teachers and students. The national average of out-of-pocket money a teacher spends on his or her classroom is \$800 per year. This new innovative program will allow an individual or business to "Adopt" a classroom. For only \$500 per year you can sign up and adopt a class in one of Stafford County Schools.

The money goes directly to an account for that teacher to use to purchase supplies for the classroom. This is a great way for the community to support our schools. I encourage all parents, clubs and organizations to "Adopt". What a great way to show you care. Adopt-A-Classroom is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 100% of all donations go directly to that classroom!

I hope that all PTAs, PTOs, and PTSAs will get involved in this great opportunity! If you are a business owner, what a beautiful way to support our teachers and students. For more information log on to www.adoptaclassroom.com -or contact your school board member. Be the first in your neighborhood to "adopt a classroom".

There are many people in our schools that make a difference in our children's lives, from the moment your child gets on the school bus to the moment they get home. Be sure to say THANKS to that bus driver who transports them safely to and from school each day. The smiling face of a paraprofessional or parent volunteer who greets them at school, the "cafeteria ladies" who make sure our children are served good, nutritional food. Of course when "accidents" happen, or something breaks down, our maintenance, and custodial staff are on the job to keep our schools up and running. Along with our teachers and administrators, these fine people take care of our most precious possessions each school day. Be sure to THANK THEM FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

Stay involved in your schools and in your community. There are Cub scout troops forming in your area. If you need information about Scouting be sure to ask for information that is provided by the local troops in our school offices and parent pick-up tables.

In a growing region like Stafford, there is much to be done now and in the future. Decisions are made that will impact children in Stafford for years to come. We need your input, comments and suggestions. As elected officials, the School Board members are here to listen to you and to serve our children. Please do not hesitate to contact any board member should you need us.

Robert Belman, Vice-Chairman

Falmouth District